

July 3, 2000

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463
Attention: Jeff Jordan

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

JUL 7 3 09 PM '00

I have received your letter regarding MUR 5033 that alleges that I may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, and would like to respond in an attempt to demonstrate that action should be taken against myself.

At the time that the alleged violation occurred, I was unaware that what was happening was illegal. The objections that I had with Dr. Hightower when he asked me to get the managers and corporate staff to write checks to the Lamar Alexander campaign was that the managers and corporate staff may not support Lamar. It was also my understanding that myself along with the other members of the management and corporate staff that could attend would be invited to the campaign fundraiser dinner. This seemed to be fair since we were being reimbursed. I took it more as a reward for doing a good job running the restaurants owned by Dr. Hightower.

About 1 ½ to 2 years ago I was reading the paper and came across an article about a similar situation that occurred in Georgia. That is when I realized that what had happened was illegal. I have enclosed a copy of that article for your review.

It is my hopes that by bringing this matter to your attention that I will be relieved of any potential charges. Dr. Hightower was a very harsh person to work for and at the time I could not afford to go against his wishes for fear of losing my job. I hope that you will understand my position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Al Thomas

24 JUL 5 04 PM '00

Company pays election fine

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission has accepted a \$200,000 civil fine from a carpet company that admitted reimbursing employees for donating to Lamar Alexander's presidential primary campaign in 1996.

The FEC announced its approval of the fine from Beaulieu of America Inc. this week, six months after the Dalton, Ga., company pleaded guilty to five misdemeanor counts of directing 36 employees to attend a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner in March 1996 for Alexander. The company reimbursed them. It paid a \$1 million criminal fine.